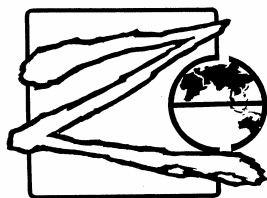
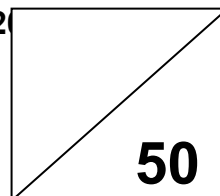


NAME : _____ INDEX NO : _____ CLASS _____



**ZHENGHUA SECONDARY SCHOOL
SECONDARY THREE
G3 SOCIAL STUDIES
END-OF-YEAR EXAMINATION**

per 20



Writing papers and thread

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Name, Class and Register number on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Section B

Answer **both** questions.

Write all answers on the writing papers provided.
At the end of the examination, fasten all work securely together.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

This Social Studies component is worth 50% of the Humanities subject.
The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

The total marks for this paper is 50.

Setter: Ms Jency Gracia

This document consists of 7 printed pages including this cover page.

[Turn over

SECTION A (Source-Based Case Study)

Answer **all** questions.

1 Exploring Citizenship and Governance

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer all the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions, you should use your knowledge of the issue to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Source A.

What is the cartoonist's message? Explain your answer, using details of the source. [5]

2 Study Source B and C.

How different are these two sources? Explain your answer. [7]

3 Study Source D.

Why do you think the Minister of State for Social and Family Development made this speech? Explain your answer. [6]

4 Study Source E.

How reliable is Source E in showing the government's efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore? Explain your answer. [7]

5 'The government's efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore are enough'.

Using sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]

[Turn over

How effective are the Singapore government's policies in increasing birth rates?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

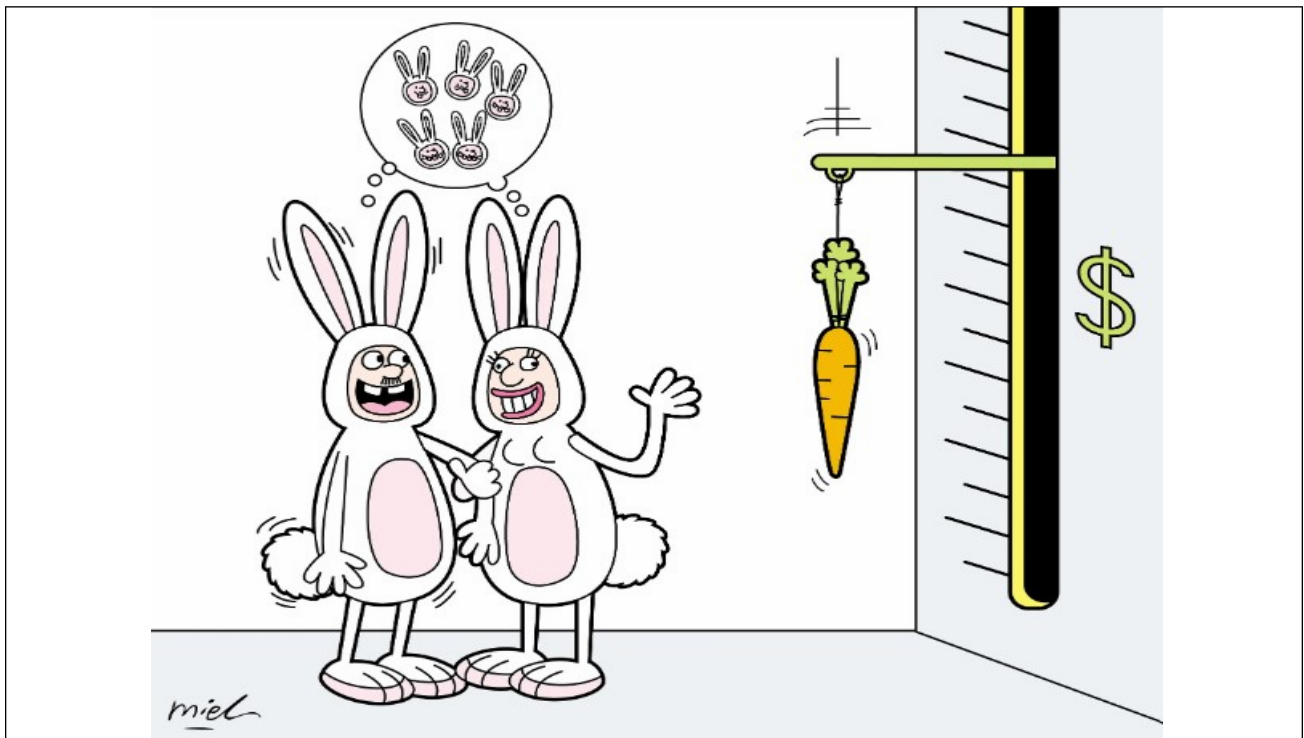
Read this carefully. It may help you answer some of the questions.

Singapore's resident total fertility rate has fallen to a historic low of 0.97 (below 1.0) in 2023. Singapore has grappled with persistently low birth rates and declining fertility rates in recent years, posing significant demographic challenges. The government has implemented and revised policies aimed at encouraging parenthood and supporting families to achieve sustainable population growth. Some efforts include policies such as the Baby Bonus Scheme and enhanced parental leave benefits, which were introduced in 2001 and 2013 respectively.

Despite these policies to encourage childbirth, the birth rates have continued to decline over the years. Singapore's high cost of living, housing policies, and the rapid modernisation of society have resulted in significant shifts in the mindsets of young people and their views towards having children. Over the years, young people in Singapore have expressed mixed feelings about whether the government is doing enough to address the concerns that they have.

Study the following sources to assess how effective the Singapore government's policies are in increasing birth rates.

Source A *A local cartoonist's view on the Baby Bonus Scheme, The Straits Times, 26 September 2018.*



Source B *From an article published by Today, a Singapore newspaper, about young people's opinions towards having children, February 2024.*

The undergraduate Ms Kaur said she would like to "provide the best" for her future child and fears not being able to compete with other, wealthier parents. A major deterrent to having kids is the financial burden of raising a child in Singapore today. Dr Tan Poh Lin, a senior research fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), said: "If we have a pyramid-shaped social hierarchy, with a small class of individuals at the top who go through a selective process for scarce elite positions in which they are heavily rewarded, and a large bottom class of individuals who are socially and economically less well-off and secure, then no matter what birth incentives you put in place, parents will always have a strong reason to choose quality over quantity. They may choose to have just one child but ensure that he or she is given all the advantages of life."

Source C *From an article published by Consumer News and Business Channel (CNBC) about the falling birth rates in Singapore, September 2023.*

"Throwing money at the problem will not solve it. Tackling the fertility rate will require us to confront the weaknesses of the current policies put in place," said Wen Wei Tan, analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

"Once women have children, they're going to see a slowdown in their career progression, and many decide to wait until they are stable in their jobs so there won't be a serious threat to their careers when they take time away from work," said Tan Poh Lin, senior research fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

Source D *An extract from the speech by Ms Sun Xueling, Minister of State for Social and Family Development, at the second reading of the Child Development Co-Savings (Amendment) Bill, September 2023.*

The latest enhancements to parental leave schemes include the doubling of government-paid paternity leave to four weeks and unpaid infant care leave to 12 days from Jan 1, 2024. Ms Sun Xueling said that the increase in paternity benefits is "(one of the) critical steps that the Government is making towards normalising paternal involvement in our society."

"This Bill will strengthen our support for parents in managing their work and family commitments, as well as to encourage greater shared parental responsibility in caregiving. The Government is committed to this cause, and will continue to review our measures to provide greater assurance to young couples as they think about starting and growing their families," she added.

Source E *From a blog written by a Singaporean father of three children, commenting on the Baby Bonus benefits given by the government, June 2010.*

Times have changed and with a pro-child policy in Singapore, it is a win-win situation to have children! One of the benefits of living in Singapore is that the government is willing to help lighten the financial costs of bringing up a child. The total Baby Bonus benefits can go up to \$10,000 for the first and second child and further increase up to \$18,000 for the third and fourth child. After the fifth child, you may receive up to \$18,000 of total Baby Bonus benefits for each child. You can use the cash to manage the new expenses once your babies are born. Therefore, to maximise your benefits, do not stop at having one child. Have a second child and more, like me!

Source F *From an article published by Channel NewsAsia (CNA) about the increased paternity leave, February 2023.*

Fathers of Singaporean children will from next year be able to take four weeks of government-paid paternity leave, doubled from the existing two weeks. Former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Lawrence Wong announced in his Budget 2023 speech that this will begin with employers having the option to voluntarily grant the additional leave, to be reimbursed by the Government. More paternity leave is a stride in the right direction, but experts and analysts feel that Singapore could be much bolder. If men do not share in domestic duties, women are likely to be reluctant about childbearing – the prospects of performing the "second shift" at home after a gruelling day of work can be daunting. Therefore, further efforts should be considered to narrow or even close the disparity between paternity and maternity leave to encourage active fathering and underscore the ideal of equally-shared parenting.

Copyright acknowledgements:

Source A ©<https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/how-to-nudge-couples-to-have-more-kids>

Source B ©<https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/adulthood-101-cost-raising-children-has-always-put-me-off-having-one-are-they>

Source C ©<https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/18/singapore-birth-rate-is-falling-and-throwing-money-at-the-problem-wont-solve-it-.html>

Source D ©<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/politics/mps-debate-bill-to-strengthen-parenthood-related-leave-and-benefits-including-doubling-of-paid-paternity-leave>

Source E ©<https://ilovechildren.sg/blog/2010/06/06/when-2-isnt-enough/>

Source F ©<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/commentary/singapore-budget-2023-paternity-leave-mandatory-fathers-3282511>

SECTION B (Structured-Response Question)

Questions 6 and 7 are **compulsory** for all candidates.

2 Living in a Diverse Society

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1

Singapore is a diverse society and sometimes, conflicting views and negative sentiments can lead to unfair treatment towards certain groups of people. The table below shows the emotional responses that Singaporeans have when they see someone experiencing unfair treatment such as prejudices, racism or discriminatory practices.

Singaporeans' emotional responses when seeing someone experiencing unfair treatment (e.g. prejudices, racism or discriminatory practices)

Age Group	Feel angry	Feel indifferent*
21-35 years old	45.9	18.5
36-50 years old	30.8	22.8
51-65 years old	30.4	12.2
>65 years old	31.8	17.9

**Feeling indifferent means feeling no sympathy, concern, sadness or anger*

Extract 2

In a diverse society, there can be exchange and appreciation of culture which can lead to a fusion between local cultures and foreign ideas.

Extract 3

In a diverse society, there can be significant exchanges of knowledge and skills which can lead to the creation of new ideas, methods and products.

- 6 Extract 1 shows that in every age group, there are still Singaporeans who feel indifferent when they see someone experiencing unfair treatment such as prejudices, racism or discriminatory practices.

In your opinion, what can be done to encourage them to be more mindful of the unfair treatment others experience? Explain your answer using **two** strategies.

[7]

- 7 Extracts 2 and 3 describe how the exchange and appreciation of culture and the exchange of skills and knowledge are benefits of living in a diverse society.

Do you think that the exchange and appreciation of culture is a more important benefit than the exchange of skills and knowledge for Singapore? Explain your answer.

[8]

Social Studies 3 Express EOY 2024 Suggested Answers

1	Study Source A. What is the cartoonist’s message? Explain your answer, using details of the source. The message of the cartoonist is that the government encourages couples to have children by giving rewarding them financially. This can be seen from Source A which shows a carrot, representing monetary incentives, dangling in front of the couple as a reward, should they choose to have children. This suggests that the government provides monetary incentives to couples to encourage them to have children. Therefore, the message is that the government encourages couples to have children by giving them rewards.
2	Study Source B. How different are these two sources? Explain your answer. Source B differs from Source C in terms of the root cause for low birth rates in Singapore. Source B tells me that the high financial cost involved in raising children is the reason why couples are choosing to not have children at all or more children. This can be seen from ‘they may choose to have just one child but ensure that he or she is given all the advantages of life.’ This suggests that parents are making decisions based on their financial ability to provide a child with a comfortable and valuable life. On the other hand, Source C tells me that the root cause for low birth rates in Singapore is the impact of having children on women’s career progression. This can be seen from ‘they’re going to see a slowdown in their career progression, and many decide to wait until they are stable in their jobs so there won’t be a serious threat to their careers when they take time away from work’. This suggests that women want to attain stability in their careers before reaching that stage whereby they would need to go on leave/stay at home temporarily to care for their child. Therefore, Source B disagrees with Source C. Source B is similar to Source C in terms of stating that couples are choosing to not have children or more children. Source B states ‘they may choose to have just one child but ensure that he or she is given all the advantages of life’. This suggests that couples are having fewer children due to their limited financial capacity. Similarly, Source C states ‘many decide to wait until they are stable in their jobs so there won’t be a serious threat to their careers when they take time away from work’. This suggests that couples prioritise job security when thinking of having children, which influences their decision to have children. Source B and Source C are similar in their purpose. Both Sources B and C are meant to convince the government [Audience] that the <u>current policies/measures are not effective in tackling/addressing the concerns and issues that couples have when it comes to giving birth and that more relevant policies and measures have to be implemented</u> [Message]. Source B states ‘no matter what birth incentives you put in place, parents will always have a strong reason to choose quality over quantity’. Similarly, Source C states ‘throwing money at the problem will not solve it. Tackling the fertility rate will require us to confront the weaknesses of the current policies put in place.’ Both sources show analysts and experts criticising/highlighting the issues with the current/existing policies, such as the birth incentives or monetary support, by stating that they have not been effective in tackling/addressing the concerns and issues that couples and hope to convince the

	government to put in place more relevant policies and measures by being more mindful of the real reasons why couples are choosing to not have children [Intended Outcome].
3	Study Source C. Why do you think the Minister for Social and Family Development made this speech? Explain your answer. The Minister made this post because she wanted to convince/reassure Singaporean couples who are thinking of having children [Audience] that the government is aware of their concerns and is working towards implementing relevant policies to address them [Message]. This can be seen from Source D which states, 'This Bill will strengthen our support for parents in managing their work and family commitments,' and 'The Government is committed to this cause, and will continue to review our measures to provide greater assurance to young couples as they think about starting and growing their families.' This suggests that the government is implementing targeted policies to address the concerns that Singaporeans have when thinking of having children. When Singaporeans feel more assured by the government that their needs/concerns are heard, they will feel more confident and have children which will in turn increase the birth rates [Intended Outcome]. + The speech was given in 2023, when there was a historic low in total fertility rate, falling to 0.97 (below 1) [Context]. Hence, by providing further assurance to couples by stating their concerns about having children will be addressed, is a strategic move by the Minister as she is encouraging them to have more children and increase the falling birth rates [Intended Outcome]. OR + The speech given by the Minister highlights that revisions have been made to the initial bill [Context], which suggests that the government is keen on truly working towards catering to the needs of Singaporeans. Hence, by revising/enhancing existing policies, the Minister provides further assurance to couples that their concerns are heard and assures them that they can have children with confidence in the government [Intended Outcome].
4	Study Source E. How reliable is Source E in showing the government's efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore? Explain your answer. Source E is reliable in showing the government's efforts to increase birth rates because it is a real-life account of someone who has benefited from the Baby Bonus. This can be seen from 'to maximise your benefits, do not stop at having one child. Have a second child and more, like me!' This suggests that the government has indeed implemented measures to encourage Singaporeans, like the author of Source E, to have children and, therefore, is working towards increasing birth rates. OR Source E is unreliable in showing the government's efforts to increase birth rates, as it is biased and one-sided. Source E mentions only one government measure, the Baby Bonus, and its benefits for Singaporeans. This can be seen from 'One of the benefits of living in Singapore is that the government is willing to help lighten the financial costs of bringing up a child.' This means that the government works towards lowering the financial burden on parents when they choose to have children. However, this source does not consider/show the other measures that the government has or has not implemented to increase birth rates,

such as addressing the lack of arrangements to care for their newborn, or increasing paternal involvement in caring for newborns.

+ 1 Cross-reference to any of the sources below

Reliable

E.g. Source E is reliable in showing the government's efforts to increase birth rates because it is a real-life account of someone who has benefited from the Baby Bonus. This can be seen from 'to maximise your benefits, do not stop at having one child. Have a second child and more, like me!' This suggests that the government has indeed implemented measures to encourage Singaporeans, like the author of Source E, to have children and, therefore, is working towards increasing birth rates.

Cross-referencing to Source A:

Cross-referencing to Source A, Source A backs up Source E. Source A shows a carrot, representing monetary incentives, dangling in front of the couple as a reward, should they choose to have children. This suggests that the government has implemented measures, specifically monetary incentives, to encourage Singaporean couples to have children. Since Source E is supported by Source A, Source E is credible, and hence, more reliable.

Cross-referencing to Source D:

Cross-referencing to Source D, Source D backs up Source E. Source D states '... (the government) continue to review our measures to provide greater assurance to young couples as they think about starting and growing their families.' This suggests that the government has not only implemented relevant policies but continues to revise them in order to allow Singaporeans to feel more confident about having children. Since Source E is supported by Source D, Source E is credible, and hence, more reliable.

Unreliable

E.g. Source E is unreliable in showing the government's efforts to increase birth rates, as it is biased and one-sided. Source E mentions only one government measure, the Baby Bonus, and its benefits for Singaporeans. This can be seen from 'One of the benefits of living in Singapore is that the government is willing to help lighten the financial costs of bringing up a child.' This means that the government works towards lowering the financial burden on parents when they choose to have children. However, this source does not consider/show the other measures that the government has or has not implemented to increase birth rates, such as addressing the lack of arrangements to care for their newborn, or increasing paternal involvement in caring for newborns.

Cross-referencing to Source C:

Cross-referencing to Source C, Source C contradicts Source E. Source C states 'Throwing money at the problem will not solve it. Tackling the fertility rate will require us to confront the weaknesses of the current policies put in place.' This suggests although the government has implemented monetary incentives and policies to lower the financial burden of parents when they have children, there are still no measures to address the other reasons why Singaporeans are choosing to not have children. Since Source E is contradicted by Source C, Source E is less credible, and hence, less reliable.

	<u>Cross referencing to Source F:</u> Cross-referencing to Source F, Source F contradicts Source E. Source F states ‘further efforts should be considered to narrow or even close the disparity between paternity and maternity leave to encourage active fathering.’ This suggests that the lack of emphasis on a father’s role in bringing up a child is one of the factors contributing to low birth rates, and that the government should address this. Source E talks only about government’s measures implemented to lower the financial burden on parents and not increasing the shared responsibility of both parents in raising a child. Since Source E is contradicted by Source F, Source E is less credible, and hence, less reliable. + Source E is unreliable in showing the government's efforts to increase birth rates because the tone of the blogger is emotional and exaggerated. He makes absolute statements about the Baby Bonus by saying that it creates an ideal situation for couples to have children. This can be seen from Source E, where it states, 'it is a win-win situation to have children!' and ‘Have a second child and more, like me!’. This suggests that his opinion about the Baby Bonus is subjective as he is forming judgements about the government’s efforts to increase birth rates based on his own experiences as a father of three children since he has benefitted from the Baby Bonus for the birth of his three children. He is not considering whether the government has implemented relevant policies, other than the Baby Bonus, to address other areas of concerns that Singaporeans may have regarding having children. Therefore, Source E is less reliable.						
5	‘The government’s efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore are enough’. Using sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. <table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">‘The government’s efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore are enough.’</td></tr> <tr> <td>Agree</td><td>Disagree</td></tr> <tr> <td>A, D, E</td><td>B, C, F</td></tr> </table> <u>Agree: Source A, D, E</u> E.g. Source A agrees with the statement that the government’s efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore is enough. Source A shows a carrot, representing monetary incentives, dangling as a reward in front of a couple thinking of having children. This suggests that the government encourages couples to have children by giving rewarding them financially and that the parents were considering having children, which shows that the government has implemented adequate and relevant policies to increase birth rates in Singapore. E.g. Source D agrees with the statement that the government’s efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore is enough. Source D states 'This Bill will strengthen our support for parents in managing their work and family commitments, as well as to encourage greater shared	‘The government’s efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore are enough.’		Agree	Disagree	A, D, E	B, C, F
‘The government’s efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore are enough.’							
Agree	Disagree						
A, D, E	B, C, F						

	parental responsibility in caregiving. The Government is committed to this cause, and will continue to review our measures to provide greater assurance to young couples as they think about starting and growing their families'. This suggests that the government is aware of the concerns that young couples have in having children and works towards tackling/addressing these concerns. E.g. Source E agrees with the statement that the government's efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore is enough. Source E states 'to maximise your benefits, do not stop at having one child. Have a second child and more, like me!' which suggests that the Baby Bonus, one of the government measures, has successfully encouraged one such Singaporean to have more children. <u>Disagree: Source B, C, F</u> OR E.g. Source B disagrees with the statement that the government's efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore is enough. Source B states 'no matter what birth incentives you put in place, parents will always have a strong reason to choose quality over quantity. They may choose to have just one child but ensure that he or she is given all the advantages of life'. This suggests that regardless of the birth incentives out in place by the government, young couples are still grappling with the income inequalities present in society, which can make parenting more difficult, especially for those who are not as well to do. E.g. Source C disagrees with the statement that the government's efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore is enough. Source C states 'Throwing money at the problem will not solve it. Tackling the fertility rate will require us to confront the weaknesses of the current policies put in place.' This suggests that the government's attempts to provide financial support to young couples has not been enough as there are other concerns/issues that these couples have, which have not yet been successfully addressed by the existing policies. E.g. Source F disagrees with the statement that the government's efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore is enough. Source F states, 'there is scope for Singapore to be so much bolder' and 'further efforts should be considered to narrow or even close the disparity between paternity and maternity leave to encourage active fathering and underscore the ideal of equally-shared parenting'. This suggests that current policies/measures implemented by the government are still not adequate in closing the gaps between the roles of mothers and fathers in parenting. **To score additional 2 marks, candidates can take any one of these 3 routes: Add 1 if these points were not written well. By sharing example(s) from their contextual knowledge E.g. I disagree with the statement that the government's efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore is enough. In Source E, Minister of State for Social and Family Development, Ms Sun Xueling highlights how the government has been implementing and revising existing measures to increase the confidence of young couples to have children. She may be
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	providing this reassurance because from what I know, Singapore's total fertility rate fell to a historic low of 0.97 in 2023, which is below the replacement level, 1. This record shows that government's policies thus far have not been effective in increasing in birth rates in Singapore. • By writing a balanced conclusion The policies implemented by the government to increase birth rates in Singapore are adequate/sufficient to a certain extent, especially policies like the Baby Bonus. Raising children brings new expenses to parents, and the government is helping to reduce the financial burden on parents by providing them with the financial support they need for the first few years of the child's life. However, policies/measures aimed at only financial support are not sufficient, as there are other causes for the low birth rates in the first place. Slowing down of work progression for women, income inequalities in society and unequal sharing of responsibilities between fathers and mothers are all factors that contribute to the low birth rates in Singapore. The government has implemented and revised policies/measures to tackle these issues/concerns as well and it can be seen that there is some effectiveness in their efforts to provide holistic and all-rounded solutions. • By analysis of at least one source in relation to its reliability I disagree with the statement that the government's efforts to increase birth rates in Singapore is enough. Source F is reliable in showing that the government's efforts to increase birth rates have not been sufficient. Source F states, 'More paternity leave is a stride in the right direction, but experts and analysts feel that Singapore could be much bolder.' This suggests that experts and analysts, who are individuals who specialise in analysing the effectiveness of government policies, feel that the increased paternity benefits are not very impactful in encouraging Singaporeans to have children and that the government's efforts have to be more aggressive. Source F is reliable in showing that the government's efforts to increase birth rates have not been sufficient, and therefore, I disagree with the statement.
6	Extract 1 shows that in every age group, there are still Singaporeans who feel indifferent when they see someone experiencing unfair treatment such as prejudices, racism or discriminatory practices. In your opinion, what can be done to encourage them to be more mindful of the unfair treatment others experience? Explain your answer with reference to two strategies. One strategy is to allow Singaporeans to join forum discussions or conferences whereby people share their authentic experiences of being treated unfairly with fellow Singaporeans (Identify). These forum discussions and conferences allow for an exchange of views among both parties. For example, OnePeopleSG has been conducting conversations on difficult issues pertaining to racial and religious diversity (Describe). <u>By being exposed to other people's experiences with unfair treatment, Singaporeans can learn about perspectives other than their own and better understand why unfair treatment can be harmful to an individual, and to the society. It also cultivates empathy in them, which could propel them to speak up for those who experience unfair treatment</u> (Explain).

	Another strategy is to conduct campaigns/workshops to teach/guide Singaporeans about the appropriate ways to respond when they see someone experiencing unfair treatment (Identify). For example, AWARE held an Anti-Racist Allyship Workshop in 2023 to educate Singaporeans on practical ways to react or respond when they see someone encountering unfair treatment. <u>Many Singaporeans feel indifferent when they see others experience unfair treatment because they feel like there is nothing they can do to stop this from happening. When they are taught how to respond, they see how their actions can be impactful and helpful to those who experience unfair treatment and this can motivate them to speak up for others</u> (Explain).
7	Extracts 2 and 3 describe how the exchange and appreciation of culture and the exchange of skills and knowledge are benefits of living in a diverse society. Do you think that the exchange and appreciation of culture is a more important benefit than the exchange of skills and knowledge for Singapore? Exchange and appreciation of culture happens in a diverse society like Singapore through the learning and sharing of experiences from people of different race and ethnicity, nationalities, religions and socio-economic status. Our diverse society provides people with many opportunities to interact and learn from people who hail from different countries and cultures. This can also result in a fusion between local and foreign ideas. For example, fusion dishes such as laksa pasta and chicken rice sushi are results of the fusion of local traditional dishes with a foreign twist (Describe). These exchanges and fusion of local and foreign influences between groups of people can result in an enriching experience as <u>there is a deeper appreciation and understanding of these different cultural practices of other socio-cultural groups. Through this mutual understanding between the different groups of people, there is a friendly and compatible relationship fostered between them</u> resulting in the building of a harmonious Singapore (Explain). AND Exchange of skills and knowledge happens in a diverse society like Singapore especially in the areas of research and development. Fostering partnerships with foreign companies would open the doors for skill transfer and complementary relationship as both the foreign companies and local companies would stand to gain from this exchange of expertise. Foreign scientists can share their knowledge and expertise to help strengthen research competencies and collaborations with Singaporeans. For example, Thermo Fisher Scientific encourages its local employees to collaborate with employees from different cultures, experiences and expertise, which enables them to sharpen their skills by sharing and learning from one another. Thermo Fisher Scientific also collaborates with Singapore-based design firms, universities and research institutions, such as Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) to support their R&D in a wide range of areas, including genetics and cancer research. (Describe). The exchange of skills and knowledge results in a partnership between Singapore and foreign countries. This would also in turn <u>results in a workforce which is skilful and increases Singapore's attractiveness as a base for companies to expand their operations. With greater collaboration resulting in successful discoveries and the availability of technology and knowledge, Singaporeans have more confidence in the ability of managing crisis, resulting in the building of a harmonious Singapore</u> (Explain).

+

Both benefits are equally important for a diverse society like Singapore. It is important to ensure that there is an exchange of cultures in Singapore as it would lead to greater understanding and appreciation for the rich culture and diversity around us. As such, this understanding and appreciation can lead to a harmonious relationship between foreigners and Singaporeans. The exchange of skills and knowledge allows for sharing of ideas and expertise which results in a good working relationship between foreign countries and Singapore. Therefore, with a positive working relationship and the understanding of different cultures here in Singapore, friendships are forged, resulting in the building of a harmonious Singapore.